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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SECTO 01044 191335Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
----------057629 191348Z /43
O 121222Z JAN 78
FM USDEL SECRETARY JERUSALEM
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 1044

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: INFORMAL CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING

1. I HAVE HAD EXCHANGES WITH SOME OF YOU ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF OUR ALL GETTING TOGETHER FOR AN INFORMAL CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING WHILE I AM IN THE AREA. THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY FOR THIS DURING THE CAIRO CONFERENCE, BUT IT NOW LOOKS AS THOUGH MY CONTINUING PARTICIPATION IN JERUSALEM POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MAY PROVIDE SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY. WE SHOULD HAVE A BETTER FEEL BY THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK AS TO WHETHER THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE. ASSUMING IT IS POSSIBLE, I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS THAT WE MIGHT PLAN TO GET TOGETHER SATURDAY, JANUARY 28. SAM LEWIS WOULD BE HAPPY TO HOST A MEETING IN TEL AVIV. ALTERNATIVELY, RECOGNIZING THE COMPLICATIONS FOR MOST OF YOU IN GETTING TO TEL AVIV COMMERCIALLY, WE COULD DO IT IN AMMAN
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WHICH TOM PICKERING HAS ALSO PROPOSED. IF THAT WERE THE CASE, SAM AND I WOULD TRAVEL BY CAR TO AMMAN FRIDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 27, AND PLAN TO RETURN HERE SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 29. PLEASE LET ME KNOW WHETHER IN PRINCIPLE THIS TIMING WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU AND WHAT YOUR PREFERENCES WOULD BE AS TO VENUE.

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2. FOR AMMAN: ASSUME THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEMS
ON YOUR SIDETO HAVING AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL VISIT
AMMAN FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. FOR DAMASCUS: ASSUME THIS TIMING WOULD FIT IN ALRIGHT
WITH ONE WEEK POSTPONEMENT OF YOUR PLANNED LEAVE
(DAMASCUS 336).

4. FOR ALL ADDRESSEES: FOREGOING WAS DRAFTED BEFORE SADAT'S
DECISION TO CALL HOME HIS DELEGATION TO THE JERUSALEM TALKS.
WHILE THAT DEVELOPMENT MAKES IT CONSIDERABLY MORE
PROBLEMATICAL WHETHER I WILL BE STAYING IN JERUSALEM LONG
ENOUGH TO HAVE CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING JANUARY 28, I WOULD
STILL APPRECIATE HAVING YOUR REACTIONS ON A CONTINGENCY
BASIS. MY PRESENT PLANS ARE TO ACCOMPANY SECRETARY TO CAIRO
AND ON TO ANKARA, AND THEN TO RETURN TO JERUSALEM OVER THE
WEEKEND FROM EITHER ANKARA OR ATHENS DEPENDING UPON BEST
AVAILABLE TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS. WE SHOULD HAVE
A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR THE JERUSALEM
TALKS AFTER THE SECRETARY SEES SADAT, AND I SHOULD
BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU A BETTER FIX ON MY OWN PLANS BY
THE FIRST OF NEXT WEEK AT THE LATEST.
VANCE

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